

Claims filed during the PCT phase  
(annex of the IPER)

1. A method of control of at least one electronic appliance with the  
5 aid of a distant device such as a remote control comprising means of control  
and a means of selection of an appliance from amongst several, each means  
of control being associated with a code predefined in the device, each  
appliance also being associated with a code predefined in the device, said  
method comprising a step of activating the device in a first mode (3.1, 3.5)  
10 where the means of control preferentially command the appliance selected  
by the means of selection,

characterized in that it furthermore comprises:

- a step of programming (3.2) at least one association between a  
means of control and an appliance,
- 15 - a step of activating the device in a second mode (3.4) so as to  
render active all the associations performed during the programming step,  
said activating step being triggered by the means of selection, the activation  
of a means of control in the second mode consisting in transmitting at least  
the predefined code associated with the activated means of control and the  
20 predefined code of at least one appliance associated during the  
programming step.

2. The method of control as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that  
it comprises a step of commanding associations during the programming  
step prohibiting the programming of prohibited associations.

25 3. The method of control as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that  
an attempt to program a prohibited association triggers the transmission of  
an alert signal.

4. The method of control as claimed in one of claims 1, 2 or 3,  
characterized in that it comprises a step of displaying a visual identifier of an  
30 appliance, said step being triggered when the device is in the second mode  
and when the user activates a means of control associated with this  
appliance.

5. The method of control as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4,  
characterized in that the programming step (3.2) comprises a first step of  
35 selecting an appliance and a step of selecting several means of control at  
one and the same time, these means of control being associated with this  
appliance.

6. The method of control as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the programming step comprises a first step of selecting a means of control and a step of selecting several appliances at one and the same time, these appliances being associated with this means of control.

5        7. The method of control as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the programming step (3.2) makes it possible to define at least one set of associations, and in that it comprises a step of selecting a set of associations making it possible to activate this set when the device is in the second mode.

10       8. A device for the remote control of a plurality of electronic appliances, comprising means of control (6) and a means of selection (8) of an appliance from among the plurality, each means of control being associated with a code predefined in the device, each appliance also being associated with a code predefined in the device, the whole collection of  
15       means of control (6) commanding in a favoured manner the appliance selected by the means of selection (8),

characterized in that it comprises:

- a means of programming (2, 3, 6, 8) of at least one association between at least one means of control and at least one appliance,

20       - a means of activation (2, 3, 8) of all the associations programmed so that each associated control commands at least the appliance which is associated therewith by the programming means (2, 3, 6, 8) so that the activation of a means of control triggers the transmission of at least the predefined code associated with the activated means of control and the  
25       predefined code of at least one appliance associated by the programming means.

9. The control device as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the means of programming (2, 3, 6, 8) comprises a means of commanding the associations (2, 3) prohibiting the programming of prohibited associations.

30       10. The control device as claimed in claim 9, characterized in that it comprises a means of transmitting a visual or audible alert signal (9) during an attempt to program a prohibited association.

11. The control device as claimed in one of claims 8, 9 or 10, characterized in that it comprises a means of display of an identifier of the  
35       appliance (9); said means being activated when a means of control associated with this appliance (9) is activated.

12. The control device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the means of display of an identifier of appliance (9) is integrated into the means of selection (8) of an appliance.

5 13. The control device as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 12, characterized in that the means of programming (2, 3, 6, 8) comprises a means of selection of a means of control (6) and a means of selection (8) of several appliances, so that the means of control selected is associated with each of the appliances.

10 14. The control device as claimed in any one of claims 8 to 12, characterized in that the programming means (2, 3, 6, 8) comprises a means of selection (8) of an appliance and a means of selection of several means of control, so that the appliance selected is associated with each of the means of control.

15 15. The control device as claimed in any one of claims 9 to 14, under the dependency of claim 9, characterized in that the control device comprises a touch screen displaying the permitted associations.

20 16. The control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that it comprises a means of selection of at least one set of associations (2, 3, 6), the programming means (2, 3, 6, 8) being adapted to program the set of associations selected by said means, and in that the means of activation (8) activates only the associations of the selected set.

25 17. The control device as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that the means of selection of appliance (8) consists of a switch comprising as many positions as appliances to be commanded plus a position activating the programmed associations.

30 18. The control device as claimed in claim 17 under the dependency of claim 16, characterized in that the means of selection of a set of associations comprises a switch possessing as many positions as sets, this means of selecting sets being activated when the means of selection of appliance (8) is in the position activating the associations.